

Story #508 (Tape #16, 1974)

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Location: Belekçe Han
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Date: August 9, 1974

Why Children Belong to the Father

The children must go to the father [after a divorce]. If anyone asks why the children should go to the father, it is because from the woman's desire come hair, flesh, and blood, while from the man's desire comes bone. Hair decays, flesh decays, and blood spills, but bone is durable. Consequently, when the father divorces his wife, the children must go to him.¹

¹Brief as it is, this is an etiological tale, a pourquoi. Although it has no scientific validity, it explains a natural phenomenon. The explanation seems to be a rationalization to support a patriarchal concept about the heredity of children.